

Abby Wegner

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Codes of Ethics in the Classroom

A code of ethics is not a set of laws, but rather a set of standards to which teachers are held. Codes ensure that teachers do what they can to educate the students the best way possible. For example, in the Code of Ethics for Minnesota Teachers, the document says that “a teacher shall provide professional education services in a nondiscriminatory manner.” This statement holds the teacher to the standard that provides an equal opportunity to all student. Therefore, codes of ethics can protect the student by holding the teacher to these standards. The codes of ethics make the teacher create an environment that students can learn in and thrive. Also, the teachers are somewhat protected as well. The codes make sure that no information about the teacher is falsified, therefore they cannot not accept jobs for which they are not qualified.

The two codes that I chose were the Code of Ethics for Minnesota Teachers and the Code of Ethics for the National Association of Special Education Teachers. Both codes want the teacher to protect the wellbeing of the student and provide the opportunities for academic success. They both also want teachers to only apply and receive jobs for which they are qualified. Also, both codes do not want teachers to falsify information that is given to students.

Some of the differences are that the code of ethics for the National Association of Special Education Teachers talks more specifically about the individual care for the student. The code wants the “academic, psychological, physical, and social potential” needs of the student to be

nurtured. The code of ethics for Minnesota Teachers does not mention anything specific about the student's individual needs. The code of ethics for special needs teachers encourages teachers to be further educated in working with children with special needs, while the code of ethics for Minnesota Teachers mentions nothing about further education for their teachers.

With the potential of being a Christian teacher, I think that it is good to have a code of ethics. In a religious private school setting, the teachers should still be held to standards to ensure that students are getting a quality education. That being said, the code might change slightly. From the two codes of ethics I have read, I do not think that a religious teacher would omit much from them. Instead, a teacher might add religious aspects to the codes of ethics. For example, I might add that everything taught in my classroom will be in accordance with what is written in the Bible. I know that private schools are technically able to hire anyone they want for any position, so I am not sure if a school would omit that teachers must be qualified for the position that they teach or anything for which they apply. I do not think that this should change, because teachers should be qualified for the position that they teach so that the students can get the most accurate information they can from their teacher. Private Christian schools should have a code of ethics so that they can hold their teachers to a standard and make sure they are doing their jobs efficiently. The people who could publish such a document could be a group of private school across the country.